

*8 April 53*

RAVA-2371 dated 1953 (Interrogation of Willi HOETTL re PONGER/VERNER) HOETTL mentioned Dr. OFCZAREK (@ SCHAEFER)'s name to PONGER while the two (PONGER & HOETTL) were having lunch in October 1952 in Munich. PONGER stated that CIC was very angry with OFCZAREK because he continued to work against the agreement which had been reached between CIC Austria and SCHNEIDER (GENLEW). Returning from Munich to Austria, after the lunch, HOETTL, PONGER met OFCZAREK on the border. HOETTL doubts that PONGER spoke with OFCZAREK, and does not know whether or not he knows him personally. HOETTL has no reason to believe that OFCZAREK could be working for the Russians via PONGER. HOETTL has heard such rumors about OFCZAREK in Austria from Dr. Kurt WESSELY who allegedly is active for the Russian or Hungarian IS. HOETTL does not believe that OFCZAREK who had employed WESSELY, and may still use him, knows anything about WESSELY's other alleged IS activities.

HOETTL also stated that Dr. KNOLL, the son of OFCZAREK's colleague Prof. Kurt KNOLL, is a Communist Unitey Front Shop Steward in Voest and is reported to send OFCZAREK information through his father concerning this business. The senior KNOLL appears to be absolutely reliable but apparently cannot, for obvious reasons, separate himself from his son.

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